

From: lplato@cisco.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/11/01 3:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I am quite troubled by the proposed settlement with Microsoft and with the administration's encouragement to have the Justice Dept settle. I would like to respectfully propose the following:

- If you want to end their monopoly, you need to have a core of people trained to use other systems, what better way to ensure that than by installing competing products in America's schools. We should require Microsoft to purchase \$1,000,000,000 in hardware and/or COMPETING software. Any software donated by Microsoft should not count towards the \$1,000,000,000 in sanctions.
- If Microsoft chooses to donate software to the schools, it must not be pre-installed on any system, it must have a perpetual license, so that the schools do not need to pay in the future to continue to use the software 'donated' to them and it must come with an agreement for at least 20 years of support (and if the product is discontinued before that time, Microsoft must give them free upgrades to the newer system including hardware upgrades to the recommended levels). Microsoft must not be allowed to escape its support obligation by discontinuing a product line and requiring the schools to purchase an upgrade.

Microsoft is being allowed to extend its monopoly to future generations by this settlement. This is supposed to be punishment for corporate misbehaviour, instead, they are being allowed to penetrate the educational sector (the only area they have failed to gain access to) as part of a settlement. Microsoft is not actually paying anywhere near \$1B for this settlement, they are including software with a retail cost of \$100's but an actual cost to produce of more like 25 cents. The net cost of all bundled software to Microsoft is likely to be less than the cost of one song for one ad campaign, and will yield them an army of Microsoft users. (eg Start Me Up, by Rolling Stones costed MicroSoft, IIRC, \$16M)

Microsoft has violated the terms of previous settlements and yet there is insufficient and vague overview of the enforcement of these sanctions. The previous sanctions have failed to reform them.

Respectfully yours,

Larry Plato 734 604 9399
Speaking only for myself

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